PRESENT—*cont.*

Parthasarathi Ayyangar, Mr. C. R.
Patnaik Mahasayo, Sriman M. G.
Patro, *Kt.*, Rao Bahadur Sir A. P.
Pattabhiramayya, Mr. K.
Pattagar of Palayakottai, The.
Peddiraju, Mr. P.
Pocker Sahib Bahadur, B.
Premayya, Mr. G. R.
Rajagopala Pillai, Mr. P. V.
Raja of Kallikote, The.
Ramachandra Padayachi, Mr. P. K.
Ramachandra Rao, Diwan Bahadur M.
Ramakrishna Reddi, Mr. A.
Ramalingam Chettiyar, Rao Bahadur T. A.
Ramamurti, Rao Sahib Pandit Ganala.
Raman Menon, Mr. K. P.
Ramaswami Ayyar, Mr. T. S.
Ramaswami Mudaliyar, Mr. V. M.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. A.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. G.
Ranganatha Mudaliyar, Mr. M. D. T.
Rangaswami Reddi, Mr. M. B.
Sahajanandam, Swami A. S.
Sami Venkatachalam Chetti, Mr.
Shetty, Mr. A. B.
Simhachalam, Mr. Gade.
Singam Ayyangar, Mr. K.
Siva Raj, Rao Sahib N.
Smith, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. E. Conran.
Soundara Pandian, Mr. W. P. A.
Sreshta, Mr. M. S.
Srinivasa Ayyangar, Mr. T. C.
Srinivasan, Rao Bahadur R.
Sriramulu, Mr. G.
Stanes, Mr. F. J.
Subbarayan, Dr. P.
Subrahmanya Chetti, Rao Sahib P.
Subrahmanya Bhatt, Mr. U. C.
Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mr. T.
Syed Tajuddin Sahib Bahadur, Khan Sahib.
Thangal, Mr. P. M.
Thorne, C.I.E., I.C.S., Mr. J. A.
Vasudeva Pillai, Mr. V. G.
Vedachala Mudaliyar, Mr. M.
Venkatachala Reddiyar, Mr. K. C. M.
Venkatarama Ayyar, Mr. K. R.
Venugopal Nayudu, Rao Bahadur R. K.
Viswanatha Rao, Rao Bahadur V. N.
Wright, Mr. W. O.
Yahya Ali Sahib Bahadur, Khan Bahadur.
Yakub Hasan Sahib Bahadur.
Zamindar of Mirzapuram, The.

I.—SWEARING IN OF NEW MEMBERS.

The following Members made the prescribed oath or affirmation of allegiance to the Crown and then took their seats:—

Mr. J. F. HALL, C.I.E., O.B.E., I.C.S.

M.R.Ry. Rao Bahadur D. KRISHNAMURTI Garu.

M.R.Ry. Diwan Bahadur N. GOPALASWAMI AYYANGAR Avargal.

II.—HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—" I have received the following Message from His Excellency the Governor:—

' I had intended to address you in person, but as doctors have advised me not to do so, I am sending you this Message through the hon. the President.

' Mr. President and hon. Members of the Legislative Council,—

' When I last addressed the Legislative Council, I announced that I intended to extend the life of this Council but that, at the moment, I was not prepared to say for how long. I have now decided that the extension shall be for one year from the date when the Council would normally cease to exist and a notification will be issued to that effect.

' 2. Since my last speech to the Legislative Council, there has been an attempt—mainly by people from other Provinces—to introduce terrorism into this Presidency—an attempt which failed and failed utterly. It failed, not only because of the efforts of the Police, who, as usual, behaved admirably, but also because of the assistance in

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combating the menace which was given to the Government by all sections of the community and I desire to pay public tribute to that assistance. Hon Members of the Council, as one would expect of them, not only granted the extra money, which they realized was necessary to increase the Criminal Investigation Department, but they vied with each other in expressing disapproval of such outrages—the General Public gave courageous and loyal support to the Police in the actual capture of the offenders and the attitude of the Presidency showed that, whatever may be the case elsewhere, the people of Madras have no belief in or use for terrorism. They realize, as a whole, though some misguided individuals do not, that such methods do not advance their cause one iota, and I can say, from my own personal knowledge, that the only result of such actions is to make infinitely more difficult the task of framing and of carrying through the British Parliament a scheme of Self-Government that will be acceptable.

' 3. The economic situation continues to cause the Government grave concern. In accordance with promises that have been made to endeavour to assist in this time of difficulty, various steps have been taken by the Government, the most effective of which has been the reduction of freights on the South Indian Railway which was followed almost immediately by an increase in the export of Tanjore rice to Ceylon. It had been hoped that a syndicate of millowners and landholders in Tanjore might be formed but this unfortunately fell through. I trust it may be possible to revive this scheme in some form or other in order to start organization in the hitherto disorganized industry. On behalf of the trade in the Northern Deltas, endeavours have been and still are being made to come to certain agreements with His Exalted Highness the Nizam's Government but, so far, without complete success. A scheme for the inauguration of a Provincial Marketing Board, with an expert Marketing Officer is under consideration and will, I hope, come into existence.

' 4. Further, the Government have suspended the collection of land revenue to the extent of some Rs. 33 lakhs and it is difficult to see what more the Government can do. As every one knows, there is constant pressure to reduce land-tax but there is also pressure to expend money in numerous other directions and I must point out to hon. Members that it is impossible to have it both ways—to reduce taxation and, at the same time, to continue the nation-building services which hon. Members are anxious—and rightly so—not only to retain but to expand.

' 5. An Estates Land Act Amendment Bill was introduced by the Government and passed through the Select Committee but further consideration of the measure was postponed last January in the hope that the parties might come to an agreement as to the best procedure to follow in the interests of both landlord and tenant. That hope has, unfortunately, not been entirely realized but discussion has shown that on many points a substantial amount of agreement can be reached. Many of these agreed points can be incorporated in the Government Bill and it is proposed therefore to go forward with it during this session.

'6. I have been considering for some time whether the Standing Orders of the Council can be amended in the light of past experience to meet the greater convenience of hon. Members and to save Parliamentary time. I have asked you, Mr. President, the hon. the Leader of the House and the hon. Member leading the Opposition, if they will be kind enough to act as a small committee with me to examine in what direction, if any, alterations can be made and the result of our deliberations will be placed before hon. Members at the next meeting of the Council. There is one point, however, in this connexion to which I will refer now and which is entirely in the hands of hon. Members themselves. Every day I read through the questions that are to be asked and the replies thereto and I am struck by the frequency of the answer that there is no foundation in fact for the statement or the suggestion made in the question. I have no desire to curb the thirst for information of hon. Members and question time undoubtedly fulfils a very useful purpose, but I would submit to them that their own dignity demands that they should be sure any question they may put is founded on fact and not on mere supposition or hearsay.

'7. I do not intend to refer at any length to the work of the Joint Select Committee in London except to say that their task is being handled with due regard to its importance and that the Members of the Committee are conscientiously endeavouring to grapple with facts as they are so that they may evolve a constitution which shall enable this great Empire of India to take her rightful place in the comity of nations which constitutes the British Empire.' "

III.—(i) CONDOLENCE RESOLUTION ON THE DEATH OF DR. ANNIE BESANT.

*Dr. P. Subbarayan :—" Mr. President, Sir, I move—

'*that this Council places on record its deep sense of sorrow at the death of Mrs. Annie Besant.*'

" I do not think many words are needed from me to commend this resolution to this House. It is a well-known fact that Mrs. Besant took a foremost part in the struggle for home-rule, soon after the Great War. Her's was a dynamic personality, which gave impetus to the movement and if we are in a state of advance towards the fulfilment of our national aspirations the country owes a deep debt of gratitude to Mrs. Besant. Mrs. Besant's name will live not only for the work she did for India, but also for the world at large. She came of a great family of Irishmen and it is a well-known fact that one of her near relations held the place of Lord Chancellor—Lord Hatherly—and his work as Lord Chancellor is well known not only to lawyers, but also to public men. Mrs. Besant was married to Rev. Frank Besant but she found the ideals of Christianity as expounded by the orthodox church was not acceptable to her, and soon left Mr. Besant in order to work for the causes she held dear. Her work with regard to the uplift of the lowly and poor is well known. Afterwards, she threw herself into the Fabian